

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02697 181548Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT VISITS ROMANIA

REFTEL: LISBON 3317

1. SUMMARY. VISIT OF PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO ROMANIA (JUNE 13-16) FEATURED SIGNING OF FIRST "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY" BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT MEMBER STATES, FACT WHICH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS AND MEDIA HAVE MADE THE MOST OF. NO MILITARY ACCORD SIGNED (REFTEL) ALTHOUGH COMMUNIQUE DOES CONTAIN PARA NOTING CONDITIONS RIPE FOR COOPERATION
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02697 181548Z

AT MILITARY LEVEL AND JUNE JNU DEPARTURE OF ROMANIAN CHIEF

OF STAFF ION COMAN TO LISBON ALMOST CERTAINLY PRESAGES FURTHER EFFORTS TO SPUR COOPERATION IN THIS SPHERE. CEAUSESCU PUBLICLY IGNORED PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, INSTEAD EMPHASIZING NECESSITY FOR "SOLIDARITY" OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES. GOMES INVITED CEAUSESCU PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PORTUGAL, BUT NOT DATES SPECIFIED. ENDNG SUMV RY.

2. CONCLUSION OF "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATIBETREATY" BETWEEN MEMBERS OF "TWO DIFFERENT MILITARY BLOCS" WAS, ACCORDING TO CEAUSESCU, SYMBOL OF NECESSITY TO TRANSCEND THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN TOAST, CEAUSESCU SAID "WE HAVE NO NEED FOR BLOCX" AND "CAN LIVE BETTER AND MORE SECURELY WITHOUT THEM". TREATY CONTAINED STANDARD ROMAC AN ACCENT (AS RECENT "JOINT SOLEMN DECLARATIO

" WITH LDCS) ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' INTERESTS AND A CATALOG OF PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND STRICT NON-INTERVENTION. LESS USUAL POINT, POSSIBLY COVERING CYPRUS OR ME SITUATION AS WELL AS MORE GENERALLY GOR'S SOVIET PROBLEM, WAS CALL FOR STATES "NOT TO RECOGNIZE" TERRITORIAL CONQUEST OR ANY OTHER ADVANTAGE OBTAINED BY USE OR THREAT OF FORCE.

3. IN HIS TOASTS, CEAUSESCU PLAYED UHXNOT ONLY PARALLESL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BUT WSSO MANUFACTURED FRESH AFFINITIES WITH TODAY'S PORTUGAL, SUCH AS COOPERATION BETWEEN ROMANIAN ARMY AND "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES DURING AUGUST 23, 1945 EVENTS, AND COOPERATION OF ALL NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FORCES, "THROUGH THE CLOSE UNITY BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS" WHICH WAS "PRIMORDAL FACTOR" IN ROMANIAN RESISTANCE TO FASCISM. CEAUSESCU ALSO CITED UNITY OF ALL DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES, ON NATIONAL, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AS ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS AND ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IN CONTRAST, CEAUSESCU PUBLICLY FAILED TO MENTION EVEN NAME OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY. WHILE IN LINE WITH GOR POLICY WHICH HAS SOUGHT CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS MORE ASSIDUOUSLY THAN WITH MOSCOW-ORIENTED PCP, IT IS STILL WGSTRIKING
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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 02697 181548Z

OMISSION, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES IN PORTUGAL.

4. OTHER AGREEMENTS SIGNED INCLUDED LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACCORDS, WHICH ESTABLISH JOINT GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION, AND A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IN FUTURE, AGREEMENTS WILL BE CONCLUDED IN SUCH TECHNICAL FIELDS AS INTERALIA DOUBLE TAXATION

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TRANSPORT, AND GUARANTEES OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WERE CITED PARTICULARLY IN AREAS RWF MINING, CONSTRUCTION OF MACHINES AND SHIPS, TRANSPORT AND AGRICULTURE.

5. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR MACHADO IN BRIEFING FOR STO AMBASSADORS STRESSED SYMBOLIC NATURE OF TREATY AS COLLECTION OF GOOD INTENTIONS BUT NO MUSCLE, WHICH HAD BEEN, NOT SURPRISINGLY, ROMANIAN INITIATIVE. HE QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU AS SAYING US OUGHT TO BE PLEASED WITH IT IF ONLY BECAUSE SOME OF THE LANGUAGE IS LIFTED OUT OF THE US ROMANIAN JOINT STATEMENT. CEAUSESCU, MACOVESCU, AND PARTY SECRETAG FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANDREI ALL COUNSELLED MODERATION IN PURSUING PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY GOALS, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING RCP UNWILLINGNESS TO SEE ANOTHER SOVIET PARTY MAKE GAINS. CURIOUSLY, PRIME MINISTER MANESCU AND CHIEF OF STAFF COMAN EXPRESSED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF MOVING FASTER. ROMANIANS WANTED TO INCLUDE REFERENCE IN COMMUNIQUE TO POSITIVE SE ASIA DEVELOPMENTS, BUT PORTUGUESE REFUSED. ROMANIANS HAD ALSO BEEN INITIATORS OF STRONG REFERENCE TO MILITARY COOPERATION, THEN BACKED OFF COMPLETELY FOR NO APPARENT REASON, ONLY TO RETURN LATER TO PORTUGUESE MODIFICATION OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

6. GOMES VISIT SAW RETURN TO PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT OF BUCHAREST MAYOR AND RCP POLESCO MEMBER GHEORGHE CIOARA AFTER PERIOD OF ABSENCE POSSIBLY DUE TO ILLNESS.

7. O FUQTERNAL PORTUGUESE ASPECTS, AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 04 BUCHAR 02697 181548Z

MACHADO WAS STRUCK BY CLEAVAGES WITHIN PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WHICH HE BELIEVES PRESAGE A TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN MODERATES AND COMMUNISTS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE CHARACTERIZED PROTUGUESE FORMIN AS ANTI-COMMUNIST AUTHORITARIAN AND PRO-WESTERN AND AS A LIKELY CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER. THE LATTER'S DAUGHTER AND THE PRESIDENT'S SON APPARENTLY BEMUSED THEIR CONSERVATIVE ROMANIAN HOSTS BY THEIR CASTRO-LIKE POPULIST DRESS AND MILITANT ATTITUDES.

8. COMMENT. GOMES' VISIT EXPANDS FORMAL FRAMEWORK OF TIES IN ECONOMIC DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY FIELDS DEVELOPED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES SINCE APRIL 1974.

ROMANIANS SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS, PARTICULARLY
WITH NEW TREATY AND POSSIBILITY OF SETTING PRECEDENTS
IN FUTURE MILITARY COOPERATION ACROSS BLOC LINES.
ROMANIAN POSITION AGAINST MILITARY BLOCS OF COURSE ZESTFULLY
OVERFULFILLS FORMAL WARSAW PACT ATTITUDE, AND CEAUSESCU
USED GOMES VISIT TO ENUNCIATE MORE FORCEFULLY AND
DIRECTLY THAN EVER GOR'S UNIQUE ANTIPATHY TOWARD
PAKPS AND, BY INFERENCE, TOWARD SOVIET PRESSURES FOR
MORE WARSAW PACT CONFORMITY, CAPITALIZUWG ON PORTUGUESE
AMBIVALENCE TOWARD NATO AND SYMMETRY BETWEEN THE TWO
MAVERICK ALLIANCE MEMBERS.
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